

Appln No. 09/693,317
Amdt. Dated December 6, 2005
Response to Office Action of October 14, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Official Action dated October 14, 2005. In response to the issues raised, we offer the following submissions and amendments.

Amendments

The amendments cancel claim 1 and introduce newly presented claim 6. New claim 6 recasts the definition of the invention to clarify that the picture on the photograph is reproduced by the printer which uses digital data invisibly encoded onto the photograph instead of the picture itself. The new definition does not use the term 'image data' because its interpretation is proving to be a contentious issue.

The remaining claims have been amended to align with the terminology used in the fresh definition of the invention. Accordingly, we submit that the amendments do not introduce and new matter.

Claims – 35USC§103

Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected as obvious in light of US 6,603,864 to Matsunoshita in view of US 5,996,893 to Soscia and US 6,160,642 to Mui.

Applicant submits that the combined disclosures of the cited references fails to teach the combination of elements defined by new claim 6. The invention has a scanner that reads the encoded digital data printed on the photograph. This data is sent to a processor that decodes it so that the inkjet printer can reproduce the image depicted in the photograph.

None of the citations disclose a scanner, processor and inkjet printer capable of doing this. The Matsunoshita scanner reproduces the visible image by scanning the original image with visible RGB image sensors. Any damage to the original photograph will be reproduced as artifacts in the reproduced image. This is precisely the problem addressed by the present invention. By reproducing the image from digitally encoded data rather than the visual image depicted on the original photograph, the invention avoids artifacts and maintains image quality.

Likewise, Soscia and Mui also fail to disclose a scanner that reads invisible digitally encoded data and then uses the data to reproduce the image with an inkjet printer.

Claims 2 and 5 also stand rejected as obvious in light of Matsunoshita in view of Soscia and Mui in further view of US 5,771,245. However, Zhang also fails to teach a scanner that reads digitally encoded data so that an inkjet printer can reproduce the image without any artifacts from damage to the original photograph.

We submit that the combined disclosure of the cited references do not teach or suggest the essential features of the invention. Accordingly, the claims are not obvious in view of the prior art.

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The Applicant respectfully submits that the claim rejections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:



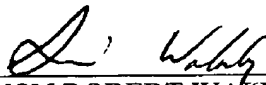
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